

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

WILLIAM CARSON THOMAS,
Plaintiff

v.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE, et al.,
Defendants.

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C.A. No. 10-110 Erie
District Judge Cohill
Magistrate Judge Baxter

MAGISTRATE JUDGE’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

I **RECOMMENDATION**

It is respectfully recommended that the instant civil rights action be dismissed for Plaintiff’s failure to prosecute.

II **REPORT**

On May 6, 2010, the Clerk of Courts received a civil rights complaint from Plaintiff, an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania; however, Plaintiff did not pay the filing fee or file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Thus, by Order of this Court dated May 27, 2010, Plaintiff was directed to pay the filing fee of \$ 350.00 to the Clerk of Courts or file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* with an accompanying institutional account statement by June 16, 2010, or suffer dismissal of this case for failure to prosecute. To date, the filing fee remains unpaid and Plaintiff has failed to file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has set out a six-factor balancing test to guide a court in determining whether dismissal of a case is appropriate. Poulis v. State Farm Fire and Casualty Co., 747 F.2d 863 (3d Cir. 1984). The court must consider:

1) the extent of the party’s personal responsibility; 2) the prejudice to the adversary caused by the failure to meet scheduling orders and respond to discovery; 3) a history of dilatoriness; 4) whether the conduct of the party or attorney was willful or in bad faith; 5) the effectiveness of sanctions other than dismissal, which entails an analysis of alternative sanctions; and 6) the

meritoriousness of the claim or defense. Id. at 868. Not all of the six factors need to weigh in favor of dismissal before dismissal is warranted. Hicks v. Feeney, 850 F.2d 152 (3d Cir. 1988).

Applying the Poulis factors to the present matter, this Court recommends the dismissal of this matter. Since the filing of this matter, Plaintiff has taken none of the necessary first steps to prosecute this case. Further, Plaintiff has failed to comply with an order of this Court. Plaintiff is proceeding *pro se* and therefore bears all of the responsibility for any failure in the prosecution of his claims. Alternative sanctions, such as monetary penalties, are inappropriate with indigent parties. Although Plaintiff's allegations may state a claim upon which relief could be ultimately be granted, the merits of the claim are impossible to determine at this early stage of the proceedings.

III CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully recommended that this case be dismissed due to Plaintiff's failure to prosecute.

In accordance with the Federal Magistrates Act, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), and Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(b)(2), the parties are allowed fourteen (14) days from the date of service to file written objections to this report and recommendation. Any party opposing the objections shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of service of objections to respond thereto. Failure to timely file objections may constitute a waiver of some appellate rights. See Nara v. Frank, 488 F.3d 187 (3d Cir. 2007).

/s/ Susan Paradise Baxter

SUSAN PARADISE BAXTER
United States Magistrate Judge

Dated: October 7, 2010

cc: The Honorable Maurice B. Cohill
United States District Judge